



## Year 4 Orange Class News

# Autumn 2020

Welcome back to school, it is so lovely to have all the children back and I feel especially lucky to be their teacher again. We have an exciting curriculum to help us get back into learning this term. We are starting with a rather volatile subject, States of Matter, which will give us plenty of opportunity to be scientists mixing different matter and seeing what happens. From explosions to making ice-cream there is plenty to discover and polish our scientific skills with. This leads us perfectly into researching and deepening our understanding of the earth and how different states of matter occur in the natural world. Learning about Volcanos and earthquakes will have us exploding towards half term.

After half term we shall look at the impact of volcanos had on human civilisations by learning about Pompeii. This will then bring us back to the UK when we consider the impact the Romans had on life in Britain with a particular focus on Exeter and a visit from a Roman Soldier to help us imagine life then.

Home learning – This is all about routine, short sessions regularly to build up skills and fluency in reading, spelling and number knowledge.

**Reading** - I expect every child to read at home out loud for at least 10 minutes a day more if you can. I will set a reading challenge of the children reading for 100 hours by the end of the year, they will receive certificates for 10 hours, 25 hours, 50 hours and 100 hours. Some of this time will be reading in class, reading at home to themselves or reading to parents and family members. This has worked at a great incentive I cannot stress how important it is to help with their understanding and learning across all the subjects. I know first hand how tricky it is to fit it all in, but please make time and build it into your routines.

**Times Tables** - We are using Maths Shed and I will set their tables to match their need. It is especially important for our Y4 children as they will be completing a times table assessment this year which is computer based. The Maths Shed format helps them practise and build confidence. We shall also be learning tables with pen and paper, children will need to practise at home their tables and every Friday will have a time challenge to see if they can improve on their last time (they will be competing against themselves not each other).

**Spelling** - Finally, spellings need to be part of their weekly routine for home learning. This is not to be considered a test, the last thing we want is for children to become stressed about spellings, however they do need to learn them. We are using the Spelling Shed to help support them as well as pen and paper based activities. Each week they will have different spellings to learn and lots of lovely games to play. Every Friday we shall have a self - check with these words before moving on.

With COVID it is difficult to have time to meet and chat informally. Please use Dojo to send messages or ask questions, I check it regularly. If you have an urgent matter you can phone or email the school. I can phone you back. Thank you for your continued support during these strange times.

Yours Sincerely

Sarah Marshall

